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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/635,994	08/09/2000	Howard Dernehl	DERN-00101	5407

28960 7590 01/05/2006
HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP
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EXAMINER

ALVAREZ, RAQUEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3622

DATE MAILED: 01/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/635,994

Applicant(s)

DERNEHL ET AL.

Examiner

Raquel Alvarez

Art Unit

3622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 November 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to communication filed on 11/2/2005.
2. Claims 1-49 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Damico et al. (5,819,285 hereinafter Daminco).

With respect to claims 1-5, 7-16, 19, 27, 30, 34-35, 37-49, Damico teaches a method of marketing a marketable entity selected from a group consisting of goods and services (abstract). Creating a digital data base controlled by a provider (Figure 1, 128); offering a potential reward to a first party in exchange for promotional assistance of the first party, the promotional assisting comprising assistance in a forwarding a first message to a second party, the first message comprising a personalized referral for the marketable entity, and a first set of data comprising a first serial number and a first URL link (col. 5, lines 25-55 and col. 6, lines 39-43); creating a first web site corresponding to the first URL link, the first web site providing information on the referenced marketable entity and an offer to transact for the referenced marketable entity (col. 5, lines 25-55); correlating the first set of data in the first message to a first set of database data within the database, including data within the database relating to the potential reward offered

to the first party in exchange for promotional assistance (col. 5, lines 25-55 and col. 6, lines 39-43); and forwarding the first message to a second party (col. 5, lines 56 to col. 6, lines 1-22); generating second serial numbers and updating and authenticating those numbers when second recommendations are made (col. 5, lines 25-55)

With respect to the recommendation message being sent by e-mail and performing certain forwarding procedures. Damico is an On-line computer service that uses the World-Wide-Web. Damico is silent as to the form of transmission of the first message but since Damico uses is On-line, Internet based system it would have been obvious to have had e-mail to receive and send messages to an individual or group and to forward messages. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to have included the recommendation message being sent by e-mail in order to achieve the above mentioned advantages.

Claims 6, 17-18, 20,24 further recite that the link is accessible through a token in the form of a first icon visible in the message. Official notice is taken that it is old and well known in the computer related field to have a token in the form of an icon that is visible in the message in order to represent a function, object or program. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to have included a token in the form of a first icon visible in the message in order to make file navigations and manipulation easier.

Claims 21-23, 25-26, 28-29, 31-33, 36 further recite crediting an account within a database and recording the reward credited. Official notice is taken that it is old and well known in the business related arts to credit an account because such a modification would provide an easy and efficient way to reward a customer. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to have included crediting an account within a database and recording the reward credited in order to obtain the above mentioned advantage.

Point of contact

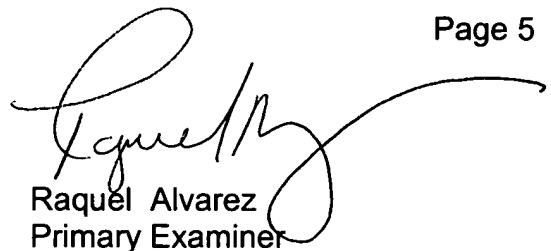
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Raquel Alvarez whose telephone number is (571)272-6715. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eric w. Stamber can be reached on (571)272-6724. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Raquel Alvarez
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3622

R.A.
12/29/2005